

NEWS FROM LEGISLATOR ROB CALARCO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

[Amy Keyes](#)

Office:

(631) 854-1400

-MEDIA RELEASE-

CALARCO CALLS FOR DRIVERS TO LOOK TWICE & SAVE A LIFE; RECENT MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR INCREASED AWARENESS OF MOTORCYCLES

Patchogue, LI—Tuesday, May 21, 2013: In light of recent serious motorcycle accidents which have occurred in his Legislative District, Suffolk Legislator Rob Calarco is joining with Long Island ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education) to remind drivers that May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

“Over the last five years – on average, 174 people were killed in motorcycle accidents across New York State. In the last month alone, there have been two serious motorcycle accidents in my district. There are actions we can take to help prevent horrible tragedies like these from happening so frequently. The point of designating May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month was to draw drivers’ collective attention to the fact that as the weather gets warmer, there are motorcycles on the road. Sometimes just that simple cognizance CAN make the difference,” said Legislator Calarco.

Long Island ABATE has been promoting Motorcycle Awareness all month by posting large signs at strategically identified intersections across Long Island urging motorists to, “Think

Robert Calarco, Legislator, 7th District
90 West Main Street, Suite 2N
Patchogue, New York 11772
Tel: (631) 854-1400
Fax: (631) 854-1403



Twice, Safe a Life!" Jim Barr, President of Long Island ABATE said, "Motorists are accustomed to looking for another car when they are about to cross someone's right of way. There are studies that have shown that our minds automatically dismiss the danger of an object that is smaller than we are looking for. Therefore it is imperative that motorists actually look for motorcycles before they enter our path of travel."

Former Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington, who authored the original resolution naming May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Suffolk County, is also uniting with Legislator Calarco and Long Island ABATE to entreat drivers to be more aware of motorcyclists on the road. Eddington said, "As the summer months bring warmer temperatures, they also bring more motorcyclists on our roads. As a former Legislator, Chair of Public Safety, and as an avid motorcyclist I am all too aware of the high number of accidents caused by distracted motorists us on the road. Unfortunately, unlike a motorist someone on a motorcycle is exposed to far greater injury in such accidents, which makes raising awareness to everyone on the road to look out for motorcycles all the more important."

Legislator Calarco went on, "The two most common causes of motorcycle accidents are driver distraction and failure of the driver to yield the Right of the Way - two factors which could potentially be reduced through increased awareness of motorcyclists' presences on our roadways."

Suffolk County Legislator Rob Calarco represents the 7th Legislative District which includes Patchogue, East Patchogue, North Patchogue, and Medford. Smaller portions of Blue Point, Bellport, Coram, Farmingville, Holtsville, Ronkonkoma, and Fire Island are also included in the District. He is Chairman of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection committee, Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, as well as a member of the Health Committee and the Ways & Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.